

great metaphor for what I am saying. We looked down. Here was the port of entry with a line of cars maybe a mile deep into Mexico waiting to come into the United States, everybody being checked, but, of course, Nogales is in a desert area, very flat area, and we were flying in a helicopter, and so we looked at that, and it was ironic to say the least that not more than a mile on either side of that port of entry where everybody was being stopped, you could watch people walking across, sometimes simply driving off of a road in Mexico and into the United States through our national park down there, Organ Pipe Cactus National Park.

□ 2130

It looks like a racetrack. It is not a national park any more; it is a combination of a dump and a racetrack, where everywhere you look tracks have come through. People have simply driven over into the deserts, driven into the United States. You can fly over and see all these tracks looking like spiderwebs every place.

They have ruined the environment. They have destroyed much of the environment to the point that I cannot believe the Sierra Club does not go down there and really go ballistic. But of course they will not, because this is a politically incorrect thing for them to do, to complain about the degradation of the environment being done by illegal immigration.

And so we watched as people came into the country, of course completely undetected, except for the fact we happened to be flying over and watching it. But certainly we do not know who they are and, for the most part, of course, they are coming for the benign reason of a job. Absolutely true. But how do I know all of them come for that purpose?

And I guaranty you all of them do not come for that purpose, because of course we could also see the remnants of the drug trafficking, which is enormous. We picked up sacks all over the landscape where people had carried them in because they were coming in illegally and they were being used as what they call mules to bring the stuff in on their backs. And by the way, this is observable certainly on the southern border, but it is absolutely as rampant on the northern border, especially the drug traffic. So it is not just a southern border problem. It is a huge problem for America.

We do not know who is coming. We know that there are cartels in South and Central America that have now specialized in the importation of people, not drugs any more. They have changed their marketing tactics, their sales or whatever, because they are now importing people because it is more lucrative. It is \$1,500 to \$2,000 for a poor Mexican peasant to come into the United States paying a coyote; it is up to \$55,000 for someone coming from the Middle East or Asia. It is a very lucrative endeavor.

And what do they have invested in it? Hardly anything. It is not like they need to pay the grower to take care of the plants and all that kind of investment there is in drugs. You do not have that in people. And if they lose a load, there is plenty more where they came from, so it is no big deal.

So now there is a cartel in what is called the tri-border area. This is in southwestern Brazil, the corner of Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina. The tri-border area is a very lawless area, and it is the site of an enormous amount of smuggling activities and that sort of thing, but it is also the site of this Mexican mafia cartel that no longer deals in drugs specifically, it deals now primarily in people, and it wants to concentrate on Middle Easterners coming in because they pay the most, \$55,000.

So Middle Easterners will come into South and Central America, coming into what is called the tri-border region, be acclimated there in Brazil for a little bit, and then they are moved into Mexico and then into the United States. Some of them may be for jobs. Maybe they are all coming to do jobs Americans just will not do. I hear that all the time, of course. That is the only reason why we have illegal immigration; it is because we have so many jobs Americans will not do.

So therefore we have to bring in Saudis and Pakistanis and Iranians and Chinese? Well, no, Mr. Speaker, there are other reasons people are coming here, and some of them are nefarious. Some of the reasons are very, very scary. But our borders are porous, and they can come across at their will. And we are shirking the most basic responsibility we have in this body.

It may be bizarre to say such a thing here, but our primary responsibility in this House is not to educate America's children, it is not to provide welfare benefits to America's disenfranchised and poor, it is not to provide highways, and it is not to provide recreational services. Those things are not any of the identified responsibilities of this body in the Constitution of this country, which is supposed to be our guiding light.

Every Member takes an oath. We stand here at the beginning of the session, and we do not take an oath to the President. And we do not take an oath to our party. We take an oath to the Constitution. And when you look at the Constitution, what does it say about educating children or any of the other things? At least you are going to have to sort of interpret. But what does it say about our responsibility to defend America? What is the Federal Government's role here? Clear, unambiguous, it is our primary role. It is the one thing we are supposed to do: defend the Nation.

And, therefore, I say to you, Mr. Speaker, we shirk our primary responsibility here when we refuse to defend our own borders because of the politics of cheap labor. And that is the reason

we do not defend our borders. That is it. As ugly and as uncomfortable as that is to deal with, here, 2 years after the most devastating attack on our shores we have ever experienced, we still do not defend our own borders and enforce them because of that fear, the fear that we would stop cheap labor. It is politics. It is unacceptable. It is disgusting, in many ways.

So, yes, I am here tonight, as I am on the floor many nights, and I am speaking on this, which I have spoken on hundreds of occasions. And I will continue to do so because I believe with all my heart that this issue warrants our attention, our concern, and at least, Mr. Speaker, a debate.

MAKING IN ORDER ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2003, CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 69, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on September 25, 2003, without intervention of any point of order, to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 69) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes; that the joint resolution be considered as read for amendment; that the joint resolution be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado? There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3161, RATIFYING AUTHORITY OF FTC TO ESTABLISH A DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House H.R. 3161; that the bill shall be considered as read for amendment; that the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion, except: number one, 1 hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and, number two, one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

IRAQ/MILITARY/RESERVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from